

T-636
Old Schoolhouse Building
St. Michaels
private

c. 1890 and later

By tradition the house at 408 St. Mary's Square is believed to be part of the building once used by the St. Michaels Female Seminary. This tradition, however, has not been fully substantiated. It is apparent that this house, consisting of two different structures, has been moved at least once. The buildings formerly associated with the St. Michaels High School, located across the street during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, were moved or torn down at different times.

The first time a structure appears on this part of "Lot 32," the site of the house, is on the 1901 Sanborn Insurance map. By contrast, the 1891 maps shows the lot vacant, but a similarly sized structure stands behind the High School on the same map, but it was moved, torn down or burned by 1901. If this house and the building that stood behind the high school are the same structure, than it may serve as the basis for the long-standing tradition that this building once served as a school. More factual evidence has not surfaced.

The old schoolhouse building is an unusual tupe of gable front structure not normally associated with the different types of dwellings in St. Michaels.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-636

Magi No. 2106362604

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic OLD SCHOOLHOUSE

and/or common BRAMBLEY HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 408 St. Mary's Square not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	<u> </u> Public Acquisition	<u> </u> Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> </u> private residence
			<u> </u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brambley

street & number 408 St. Mary's Square telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 512

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 787

city, town Easton state MD 21663

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No.

T-636

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old schoolhouse building stands at 408 St. Mary's Square in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, two-bay frame house faces east with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Evidently dating, at least in part, to the late nineteenth century, the two-story stepped frame house is supported by a concrete foundation and is sheathed with a uniform layer of wood shingles. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. According to local builder, Victor MacSorley, the house is composed of two separate buildings that were joined to make a single dwelling.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical two-bay facade with a side entrance and a flanking six-over-six sash window. The replacement front door is topped by a three-light transom, and a gabled hood shelters the doorway. The second floor is lighted by a pair of evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. Each of the window openings is hung with louvered shutters. The gable end is flush, and it is trimmed with a plain bargeboard.

Rising against the south side of the front block is a modern, exterior brick chimney, while the north side is defined by a six-over-six sash window on each floor.

The slightly shorter rear section is finished in a similar fashion with the addition of smaller, modern windows.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-636

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

By tradition the house at 408 St. Mary's Square is believed to be part of the building once used by the St. Michaels Female Seminary. This tradition has not been entirely substantiated. It is apparent that this house, consisting of two different structures, has been moved at least once. The buildings formerly associated with the St. Michaels High School, located across the street during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, were moved or torn down at different times.

The first time a structure appears on this part of "Lot 32" is on the 1901 Sanborn Insurance Map. By contrast, the 1891 map shows the lot vacant, but a similarly sized structure stands behind the High School on the same map, but it was moved, torn down or burned by 1901. This may serve as the basis of the long-standing tradition that this house was once a school, but more factual evidence has not surfaced.

The old schoolhouse building is an unusual type of gable front structure, and offers an interesting contrast to the more standard mid to late nineteenth-century houses that face St. Mary's Square.

Survey No. T-636

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	1/6/89
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	301-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

OLD SCHOOLHOUSE BUILDING

T-636

YEAR: 1977 VOL: 512 PAGE: 787

FROM: Ralph Brown PRICE:

TO: James M. Burress and Elaine P. Burress

NOTES At SW corner of St. Mary's Square, fronting on the Square 30 feet; depth 120 feet; bounded on N by J M W Shockley; on W by J. Fletcher Fairbank; on S by Medford Voshell; on E by the Square.

Conveyed to Ralph Brown by Audra M. Donald 1976, 499/180.

YEAR: 1976 VOL: 499 PAGE: 180

FROM: Audra M. Donald PRICE:

TO: Ralph Brown

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to W. Davis Donald and Audra M. Donald by Wm. Reddie 1972, 467/304.

W. Davis Donald died , 1975.

YEAR: 1972 VOL: 467 PAGE: 304

FROM: William Reddie PRICE:

TO: W. Davis Donald and Audra M. Donald

NOTES This, and following are steps in a title clearance:

1972, Audra M. Donald and William D. Donald, Jr. to William Reddie 467/302.

1971, William D. Donald to Audra M. and Wm. D. Donald, Jr. 448/680.

Conveyed to William T. Wharton and Ruth Wharton by Elva W. Keithley, and others 1941, 249/493.

YEAR: 1941 VOL: 249 PAGE: 493

FROM: Elva W. Keithley and others* PRICE:

TO: William T. Wharton and Ruth Wharton

NOTES * The "others" are: Addie C. McQuay, Wm. T. McQuay, Victor P. Keithley, Grace A. Keithley, C. Eugene Keithley, Annie A. Keithley, Myrtle Y. Harrison, George K. Harrison, Lee S. Gillis, Admin. & Equitable Trust Co. Extr. & Trustee. These are heirs of William J. Keithley.

Same description.

Deed says lot is same possessed by William J. Keithley when he died in 1933.

William J. Keithley was the son and heir of Thomas W. Keithley.

YEAR: 1845 VOL: 59 PAGE: 137

FROM: Thomas Keithley and Margaret Keithley PRICE: \$.50

TO: Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church

NOTES "so much of the lot (bought by Thomas Keithley of A. B. Harrison as trustee of the late John Merchant, dcd.) designated on the town plat Number 32 "Upon which lot the trustees have in course of erection a house to be used fora Sunday School".

Begins within 3 feet of the southernmost corner of St. Mary's Square; run with the Square NW 20 feet; then SW 24 feet; then SE 20 feet to within 3 feet of lot 30; then parallel with lot 30 to the beginning.

No deed has been found to revert the property to the Keithleys.

This is first subdivision of lot number 32.

YEAR: 1838 VOL: 53 PAGE: 429

FROM: Alexander B. Harrison, trustee PRICE: \$25.06

TO: Thomas Keithley

NOTES "All that lot at the southmost corner of St. Mary's Square; 60 feet on the Square running back 120 feet to lot 26".

Alexander B. Harrison was acting for the estate of John Merchant, dcd.; however, no deed showing acquisition of the property by John Merchant was found.

YEAR: 1799 VOL: 28 PAGE: 351

FROM: John Merchant PRICE:

TO: Cornelius Dorgan

NOTES This is a mortgage for p75 secured by lot number 32.

YEAR: 1780 VOL: 29 PAGE: 70

FROM: James Braddock PRICE: p40 cm

TO: William Hambleton, Gent.

NOTES This deed was recorded in 1801 - 21 years after the sale was made! As may be seen from the mortgage recorded by Cornelius Dorgan in 1799 (28/351) the lot must have been sold to John Merchant by 1799.

No transactions involving lot number 32 and William Hambleton or John Merchant have been found. William Hambleton died 1806 and John Merchant in

The dimensions of this lot as given in the Braddock deed are 60 x 120 feet. This and the other lots on the west side of St. Mary's Square (32-35) are shown as 100-foot-deep lots on the plat of the town and are so-listed in the survey of 1804-1806. The 1804 survey was supposed to give precedence to Braddock's plan for the town, which had been lost by 1804!

There is a tradition that part of the St. Michaels Female Seminary was moved to this lot from lot 40 or 41, across the Square. However, the lot is vacant on both the 1877 Atlas map of St. Michaels and the 1891 Sanborn map. There is a structure shown on the "school" lot (#40) in 1877 but it disappears by 1891, and lot 32 is still vacant! Lot 32 definitely shows a dwelling on the 1901 Sanborn. The 1891 Sanborn shows a building behind and to the right of the High School which is gone by 1901 and this could be the one on lot 32.

1/2 Lot 32.

NUMBER 408 - FIRST HOUSE ON SOUTH END.

T- 636

YEAR: 1977 VOL: 512 PAGE: 787

FROM: Ralph Brown PRICE:

TO: James M. Burrese and Elaine P. Burrese

NOTES At SW corner of St. Mary's Square, fronting on the Square 30 feet; depth 120 feet; bounded on N by J M W Shockley; on W by J. Fletcher Fairbank; on S by Medford Voshell; on E by the Square.

Conveyed to Ralph Brown by Audra M. Donald 1976, 499/180.

YEAR: 1976 VOL: 499 PAGE: 180

FROM: Audra M. Donald PRICE:

TO: Ralph Brown

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to W. Davis Donald and Audra M. Donald by Wm. Reddie 1972, 467/304.
W. Davis Donald died , 1975.

YEAR: 1972 VOL: 467 PAGE: 304

FROM: William Reddie PRICE:

TO: W. Davis Donald and Audra M. Donald

NOTES This, and following are steps in a title clearance:

1972, Audra M. Donald and William D. Donald, Jr. to William Reddie 467/302.

1971, William D. Donald to Audra M. and Wm. D. Donald, Jr. 448/680.

Conveyed to William T. Wharton and Ruth Wharton by Elva W. Keithley, and others 1941, 249/493.

YEAR: 1941 VOL: 249 PAGE: 493

FROM: Elva W. Keithley and others* PRICE:

TO: William T. Wharton and Ruth Wharton

NOTES * The "others" are: Addie C. McQuay, Wm. T. McQuay, Victor P. Keithley, Grace A. Keithley, C. Eugene Keithley, Annie A. Keithley, Myrtle Y. Harrison, George K. Harrison, Lee S. Gillis, Admin. & Equitable Trust Co. Extr. & Trustees. These are heirs of William J. Keithley.

Same description.

Deed says lot is same possessed by William J. Keithley when he died in 1933.
William J. Keithley was the son and heir of Thomas W. Keithley.

YEAR: 1845 VOL: 59 PAGE: 137

FROM: Thomas Keithley and Margaret Keithley PRICE: \$.50

TO: Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church

NOTES "so much of the lot (bought by Thomas Keithley of A. B. Harrison as trustee of the late John Merchant, dcd.) designated on the town plat Number 32 "Upon which lot the trustees have in course of erection a house to be used fora Sunday School".

Begins within 3 feet of the southernmost corner of St. Mary's Square; run with the Square NW 20 feet; then SW 24 feet; then SE 20 feet to within 3 feet of lot 30; then parallel with lot 30 to the beginning.

No deed has been found to revert the property to the Keithleys.

This is first subdivision of lot number 32.

YEAR: 1838 VOL: 53 PAGE: 429

FROM: Alexander B. Harrison, trustee PRICE: \$25.06

TO: Thomas Keithley

NOTES "All that lot at the southmost corner of St. Mary's Square; 60 feet on the Square running back 120 feet to lot 26".

Alexander B. Harrison was acting for the estate of John Merchant, decd.; however, no deed showing acquisition of the property by John Merchant was found.

YEAR: 1799 VOL: 28 PAGE: 351

FROM: John Merchant PRICE:

TO: Cornelius Dorgan

NOTES This is a mortgage for p75 secured by lot number 32.

YEAR: 1790 VOL: 29 PAGE: 70

FROM: James Braddock PRICE: p40 cm

TO: William Hambleton, Gent.

NOTES This deed was recorded in 1801 - 21 years after the sale was made!

As may be seen from the mortgage recorded by Cornelius Dorgan in 1799 (28/351) the lot must have been sold to John Merchant by 1799.

No transactions involving lot number 32 and William Hambleton or John Merchant have been found. William Hambleton died 1806 and John Merchant in

The dimensions of this lot as given in the Braddock deed are 60 x 120 feet.

This and the other lots on the west side of St. Mary's Square (32-35) are shown as 100-foot-deep lots on the plat of the town and are so-listed in the survey of 1804-1806. The 1804 survey was supposed to give precedence to

Braddock's plan for the town, which had been lost by 1804!

house was at Miles River Neck. It was known as "Braca

Lemmon I. Catrup,
Montgomery Lloyd,
James M. Lowe. Dr.
Present.

the new
chose Alexander
as School Examiner
ty, a post similar to
superintendent of
in also served as
easurer. He held this
1907, a term of 39
er than any other
of schools for Talbot
nning salary was \$900
les were many: he
e public schools; he
ective teachers and
re issuing, or denying,

school commissioners,
and approved the
n the county; he read
of the seniors of the
hools before issuing
he, along with
et and listened to the
tions of parents who
rd, requesting new
a change in district
es, the creation of a
ct. He submitted bids
or school supplies.
erlnt ment made a
gress the schools.
8, Julius G. Miller
d principal of Easton
ing January, William
a was appointed his

the School Commissioners yielded.
Her success was followed by other
similar requests that included Greek
and French as well as Latin. Most of
these were granted. By the end of the
century, Greek was optional, but Latin
and French were still required of all
Talbot High School students.

In 1873, bids were asked to
remodel that old M. E. Church in St.
Michaels for school purposes. The
contract was awarded Blades and
Dyott. This remodeled building was
occupied in March 1874 by the high
school and the grammar school. It was
called the Consolidated High School of
St. Michaels. The old building that was
vacated had been formerly used by the
St. Michaels Female Seminary. It was
sold for \$50 and moved down San
Domingo Creek on a barge to be added
to the brick dwelling on Oremton
Farm.

In 1875, a new one-room
schoolhouse was built for the Chapel
District by Thomas J. Eaton at the
cost of \$625. That same year, Julius
G. Miller resigned as Principal of
Easton High School. Since no suitable
successor could be found, Prof.
Alexander Chaplain, the school
examiner, served as principal ex
officio, with T. L. Pattison as his
assistant.

... a new schoolhouse at Cordova.
This would be 24' by 40'. It cost
\$1276.

In 1886, rules were adopted for the
schools. School opened at 9 a.m. and
closed at noon with an hour for lunch.
The afternoon session was from 1 p.m.
to 4 p.m. Recesses must last for only
ten minutes, and pupils would march
back to their classrooms. Morning and
afternoon exercises should have
appropriate readings, music and
singing.

In 1887, Win. V. Hardcastle was
principal of Trappe High School. He
was followed by Daniel Melvin Long.

In March 1889, the School
Examiner sent a circular letter to all
teachers giving plans for observing
Arbor Day. Literary exercises would
be followed by the planting of trees.
Later that year, in August, the new
building for the St. Michaels schools
was inspected by the County School
Commissioners and Prof. Alexander
Chaplain, accompanied by Prof. M.A.
Newell, State Superintendent of Public
Schools, and Peter A. Witmer, a
member of the State Board of
Education. The cost of this new brick
building on Chestnut Street was
\$7777.37.

In September of that year, the total
enrollment of the public schools of
Talbot County totaled 4,069 pupils.

In 1892, all of Talbot's teachers
were required to take this oath:
"You do swear, that you will obey
the school laws of the State of

children w
books and
'First Latin
\$1.10 while
Reader' sol
slate cost !
book 7 cen



This country school

STAR-D Mar 8, 1972
Gill & Byron

IRMA HARPER TOLD BERNICE THAT PART OF THE BUILDING WAS MOVED ACROSS THE
SQUARE AND BECAME THIS HOUSE - LATER ADDED TO.

ST MICHAELS

ST. MICHAELS DIST. TALBOT CO.



ST. MICHAEL'S BUSINESS REFERENCES.

DODSON, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fine Toilet Soap, Fancy Hair and Tooth Brushes, Perfumery and Fancy Toilet Articles, Sashes, Shoulder-Braces, Grass and Garden Seeds, C Wines and Liquors for Medicinal purposes, Oils, Varnishes and Dye Stuffs, Letter Paper, Ink, Envelopes, Glass, Putty, Carbon Oil, Pipes, Chimneys, &c. Physicians' Prescriptions carefully Compounded.

HADDAWAY, Insurance Agent and Conveyancer.

W. DEAN, Collector of Claims, Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.

SB DYOTT, Carpenter, Contractor and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

ED H. HAMBLETON, Carpenter and Builder, Shop at St. Michael's.

SB RAYMON, Real Estate Agent and Collector of Taxes.

SPANGLER, Justice of the Peace and Collector.

SMITHMAN, Boot and Shoemaker. First class work done on short notice. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

S. HAMBLETON, Proprietor of "Hambleton's Mechanical Shop," Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, and all work appertaining thereto. In-icate Machinery carefully repaired. Farming implements on hand, and made to order at short notice. Carriage Repairing, Trimming and Painting Specially.

WILLIAM CAULK, Physician and Surgeon.

JAMES BETH, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Residence near St. Michael's.

LIAM S. HARRISON, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker. Repairing promptly and neatly done. Shop in Broad Creek Neck.

NEAVITT & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, &c. Store in Broad Creek Neck.

N T. HARRINGTON, Proprietor of "Williams House," Newly furnished and fitted. Table carefully catered for. All the luxuries of the season. Ample Stable Accommodations. Charges moderate.

NIEL J. KILMAN, Carriage Maker and Dealer in all kinds of Wagons.

ORGE W. COLLINS, Timber. Worker in Tin, Sheet Iron, &c. Also Dealer in Stoves and Tin, and Sheet Iron ware of every description.

E. BLADES, Carpenter, Contractor, and Builder. Persons having work in this line will do well to see him before contracting.

JEFF HERGENSHEIMER, Ship Builder. Repairing of all kinds promptly and neatly done.

VER FAIRBANK, Boot and Shoemaker. Is skillful in his profession. Those wanting first class work done will do well to patronize him.

RISON & RICHARDSON, Carriage Makers. All work warranted. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

J. HOLLAND, Butcher and Dealer in Fresh Meats of all kinds. Shop on Talbot Street.

PT. C. R. LEONARD, Freighter of Grain of all kinds to any point.

OMAS BLADES, Of E. Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco, &c.

EMI HARRISON, Dealer in Groceries, Confectionery, &c.

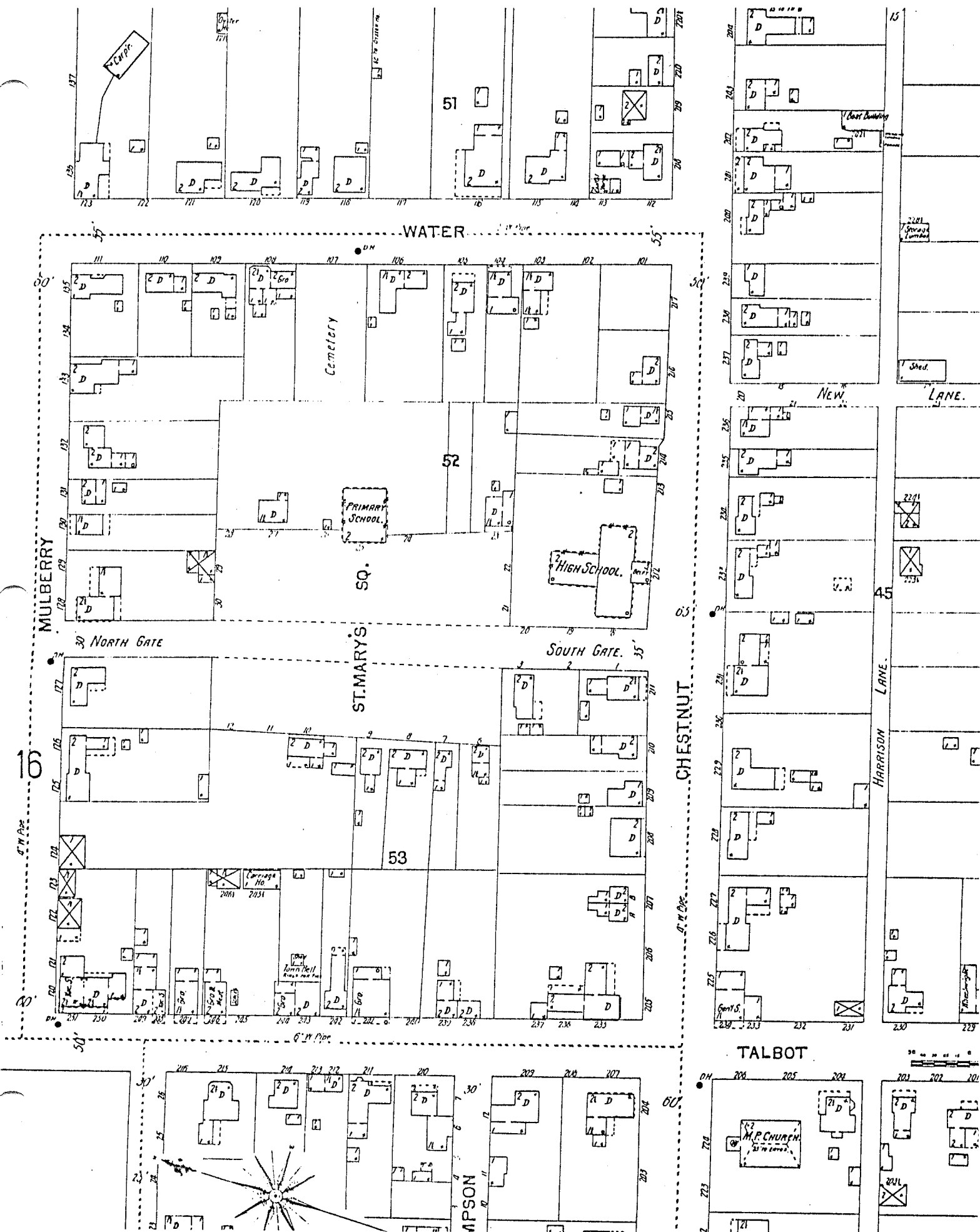
KILMON, Carriage Maker and Dealer in Carriages, Wagons, &c. Repairing promptly and neatly done.

DODSON Physician and Surgeon.

T-636

1901 SANBORN INSURANCE MAP

T-636



Coal & Wood Yard.

53

ST. MARY'S
SQ.

52

2 (OLD)
ACADEMY
TAN

HIGH SCHOOL

CHESTNUT

WATER

T-636

1891 SANBORN 1891 TEMPERANCE MALL GOND





T-636

OLD SCHOOLHOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

East elevation

12/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust